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Group Art Unit: 1732  
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**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, line 31 to page 5, lines 1 to 2 with the following amended paragraph:

Another aspect of the present invention relates to a method of ~~preparing~~ forming an absorbent-matrix comprising the steps of mixing two or more polymer solutions to form a colloidal precipitate, dispersion or coacervate (matrix precursor) wherein the polymer in at least one of the solutions is insoluble in one or more of the other solutions, isolating the matrix precursor from the solution and drying the matrix precursor to form an absorbent-matrix.